

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CLASSIFIED~~ CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Belgium/USSR

DATE DISTR. 20 FEB 52

SUBJECT Bank A. & J. Van den Berghe

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. [redacted] the Soviets intend to use the Belgian bank, A. & J. Van den Berghe, 26 Boulevard Bisschoffsheim, Brussels, as the intermediary for hard currency payments to their Western suppliers.
2. The owners of this bank are Andre Van den Berghe, 26 Boulevard Bisschoffsheim, Brussels and his ~~sister~~, Jeanne Helene Van den Berghe, 341 Avenue Louise, Brussels. In addition to the Brussels headquarters, the bank operates branches at 219 rue Heyvaert, Anderlecht; 16 Spanjaardstraat, Ghent and 14 Lange Slachterijstraat, Antwerp. It also maintains offices in Battice, Bruges, Namur and Saint Trond.
3. The bank reportedly engages in transactions of dubious legality although no details of any such actions are available. It is also believed that the accounts of this firm are, in part, falsified.
4. Andre Van den Berghe is known to be very ambitious and reckless, with few scruples in his business dealings. His affairs appear to be outside the best traditions of the banking field. Van den Berghe previously employed as chauffeur, Rene Pletinckx, who is known to be an active communist. Pletinckx who is presently living at Genval near Brussels no longer works for Van den Berghe. There is no derogatory information concerning Jeanne Van den Berghe and she is not known to engage in any political activity.
5. Other personnel at the bank include:
 - a. Georges Fernand Van Dantzig who is responsible for the coordinating of the legal and suspect activities of the bank and whose sole aim is to make a large profit in his dealings. At the time of his arrival at the bank, Van Dantzig's financial position was precarious but within a few months his situation improved to the extent that he owned a large car and led a luxurious life.
 - b. Jean Francois Jacobs. Subject is in charge of the documentary credit branch of the bank. In spite of a previous report that Jacobs personally chose several individuals in whose name funds would be

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

deposited at the bank for the Soviets, he is not believed to have the intelligence or ability to mastermind any illegal activities and acts under Van Dantzig's orders. Jacobs does not engage in any political activity.

- c. Alexandre Constant Nys. He has the power of attorney and is aware of the illegal manner in which the bank's accounts are handled. He reportedly receives additional pay because of this knowledge.
- d. Felicie Marie Devos. She also has the power of attorney.
- e. Philip De Pillecyn, administrative secretary.

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL

CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

NO CHANGE IN CLASS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	004
<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified		
Class. Changed To:	TS S	(C)
Auth:	HR 70-2	
DATE	AUG 28	